

Government Agencies Technology Exchange in Manufacturing (GATE-M)

Meeting Summary and Actions from the November 2 Conference Call

The meeting began with a discussion of the pending retirement of Howard Bloom from federal service. After expressions of congratulations and well wishes, it was agreed that Howard's successor as the (Acting) Director of the NIST Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory would chair the GATE-M Panel. It was also communicated that NIST would continue its support of the administrative aspects of the Panel during transition.

GATE-M Charter Agency Updates

SUMMARY

- Each agency reported on the status of its signature process for the GATE-M charter.
 - DOD:
 - The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology appears to be the likely signatory.
 - No legal issues were identified at this time for the current draft charter.
 - DOE NNSA:
 - David Beck from Defense Programs appears to be the likely signatory.
 - No legal issues were identified at this time for the current draft charter.
 - DOE OIT:
 - The Chief Technology Officer for the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency appears to be the likely signatory. If not him, the signatory will be the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Industrial Technologies.
 - No legal issues were identified at this time for the current draft charter.
 - NASA:
 - The Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center appears to be the likely signatory.
 - A NASA legal review of the charter revealed that NASA has no precedent for entering into a charter agreement. NASA does, however, frequently enter into Interagency Agreements (IAs), and offered up a general NASA IA as an alternative to a charter.
 - Panel discussion involved the potential incorporation of wording and intent from the current charter into a NASA IA.
 - John Vickers agreed to distribute the NASA IA to the Panel for review.
 - NIST / DOC:
 - The (Acting) Director of the NIST Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory will be the signatory.
 - A NIST legal review of the charter revealed that industrial involvement on the Panel and any to-be-established subpanels may present issues relating to possible violations of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
 - Suggestions were given regarding potential word/phrase changes to reduce the probability of encountering FACA issues.
 - NSF:

- The Assistant Director of NSF for Engineering appears to be the likely signatory.
- No legal issues were identified at this time for the current draft charter.

ACTIONS

- NASA distribute its general IA to the Panel for review. *(NASA, as soon as possible)*
 - Note that John Vickers completed this action on November 9.
 - A copy of the NASA IA that John distributed is attached to this text.
- Panel members review the NASA IA and provide feedback regarding the acceptability of substituting the NASA IA for the draft charter. *(All, as soon as possible)*
- NASA incorporate draft GATE-M charter into NASA IA, assuming positive feedback from the Panel. *(NASA, as soon as possible after confirmation of positive Panel feedback)*

Deliverables of GATE-M Panel

SUMMARY

- Discussion was held regarding the relationship between GATE-M and the National Science and Technology Council. Issues included relationships with other such national, high-level planning and coordinating organizations, and whether there existed strategic importance for having such relationships.
- A suggestion was made to align the GATE-M deliverables in such a way that would allow the Panel to make progress according to certain timeframes and based upon priorities of the Panel.
- A suggestion was made that the current deliverables could be categorized and consolidated into logical groupings.
- A suggestion was made to produce a running document defining the Panel deliverables and their status. This could be an item for the GATE-M website.

ACTIONS

- NIST and DOD will categorize and consolidate the Panel deliverables. *(NIST, DOD, as soon as possible)*
- NIST will incorporate the updated deliverable list onto the GATE-M website. *(NIST, as soon as possible after the new deliverable list is produced)*

GATE-M Participation — Agency Updates

SUMMARY

- The agencies reported relevant issues regarding potential additional participation on the Panel.
 - DOD: Dan Cundiff will represent the interests of DARPA on the Panel during our formative stages. DARPA may be interested in assuming a more active role as the Panel progresses to address specific technical issues.

- Each of the other agencies basically expressed similar sentiment regarding additional invitees to the Panel. Others may get involved as the Panel progresses to address technical issues.
- Richard Neal's representation of IMTI was recognized and thanked by the Panel. It is likely that Richard continue to be invited to participate as appropriate.
- NIST reported on the invitation to participate that we extended to Toni Marechaux of the National Academy of Engineering's (NAE) Board of Manufacturing and Engineering Design (BMAED). Toni is interested, but was unavailable for the conference call.
 - Note that Dave Stieren from NIST has since briefed this group in Indianapolis on November 8 about the GATE-M Panel activities, and the Board was quite interested. Additional discussions will ensue with Toni Marechaux regarding the best modes of interaction between GATE-M and the NAE/BMAED.

ACTIONS

- none

Other Business

SUMMARY

- The initial GATE-M website developed by NIST was reviewed and was well received. NIST solicited input from the Panel regarding ways to continue to develop and improve the site. The initial address for the site is www.mel.nist.gov/gatem
 - The web link to the IMTI MAST was discussed, and Richard Neal took the responsibility of providing Panel members with instructions regarding accessing MAST.
- The status of the GATE-M presentation to be given at a plenary session of the Defense Manufacturing Conference on November 26 was discussed.
 - Note that this issue was also subsequently discussed at the Joint Defense ManTech Panel meeting on November 6, and it is likely that the presentation will be cancelled.
- Discussion occurred regarding GATE-M initiation or support of a national manufacturing conference, and it was determined that is currently only appropriate for GATE-M to be advocated within other events, and that each Panel member should be spokespersons for GATE-M whenever appropriate.
- The next GATE-M meeting will be held as a conference call again, and NIST will initiate the scheduling process.

ACTIONS

- Richard Neal communicate MAST access instructions to the Panel members. (*IMTI, as soon as possible*)
- NIST schedule the next GATE-M conference call. (*NIST, when appropriate within the next month or two — after the holidays*)